

Remarks

The examiner has rejected claims on new grounds and has made the rejection final, asserting that applicant's amendments have necessitated the new grounds for rejection. However, claim 60 had not been amended. Therefore, the rejection of claim 60 based on the newly cited Lin U.S. Patent No. 5,764,263 cannot be made final. Accordingly, the present amendment should be entered and considered. It is submitted that this amendment, along with the argument below, will place this application in condition for allowance.

Applicant is canceling some of the claims to simplify the issues. Claims 35-37 are being canceled as well as all rejected apparatus claims. These apparatus claims are being canceled because it appears that the examiner is giving no patentable weight to recitations in the apparatus claims that the cited Lin reference lacks. Claimed solutions to the problem of ink jetting through porous material is totally absent from the Lin reference. The canceled apparatus claims are being replaced with new method claims 86-89.

New claim 86 claims a method of ink jet printing onto a porous web. It recites providing a porous web having such pores or other openings therethrough such that, when ink is jetted from a printhead onto the web, some of the ink jets through the openings to a side of the web opposite the printhead. This results in a situation that Lin does not address, namely that of ink on the table under the web that could be smeared onto the back of the web.

Claim 86 further recites a solution to the problem of the ink that is jetted through the substrate, namely providing a surface on the opposite side of the web from the printhead, stretching the web through a printing station by applying tension to the web, and moving the web longitudinally through the printing station. And, as the web moves through the printing station, maintaining a space between the web and the surface such that the web is out of contact with the surface at the printing station, and jetting UV curable ink from the printhead onto the web as the web moves through the printing station, with some of the ink jetting through the web, across the space and onto the surface. The UV curable ink that jetted onto the web is exposed to UV light.

Lin deals with the problem of paper curl that results when jet printing with aqueous inks. There is no disclosure whatever of providing a surface on the opposite side of a web from a printhead and stretching the web with tension and moving it longitudinally through a printing station and maintaining a space between the web and the surface so the web is out of contact with

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the surface. Lin further does not disclose the jetting of UV curable ink onto the web with some of the ink jetting through openings in the web, across the space and onto the surface. The UV curable ink that jetted onto the web is exposed to UV light.

Claim 87 recites a valuable addition to the invention claimed in claim 86, namely exposing at least some of the ink jetted through the openings in the web and onto the surface to UV energy to at least partially cure UV ink jetted onto the surface. This at least partly solidifies the ink on the surface so it is less likely to flow.

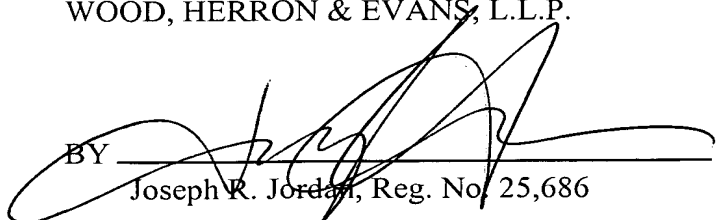
Claim 88 recites an additional feature for which the apparatus of claim 60 is useful, namely the covering of the surface with a layer of protective material. Claim 89 recites the wiping from the surface of ink jetted that was through the openings in the web. These features are also totally absent from Lin.

Allowed claims 48-50 and 65 have been amended to correct certain inconsistencies in the terminology found in these claims 86-89.

Accordingly, it is submitted that this amendment should be entered and claims 48-50, 60, 65, 67 and 86-89 should be allowed. An early allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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